

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1, 5, 16, 20, 24, 47, 66, and 74-75, and have canceled claims 1-23 and 25-77 during prosecution of this patent application. Applicants are not conceding in this patent application that said amended and canceled claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, since the claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of this patent application. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue said amended and canceled claims, and other claims, in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

The Examiner objected to claim 24 as being dependent upon an allegedly rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter and have accordingly rewritten claim 24 in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 23 from which claim 24 depends.

The Examiner rejected claims 5, 10-12, 55-58, 61-62, 67, 69 and 77 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gofuku et al. 4,785,157 in view of Blanchard 4,707,909, both are previously cited. Since claims 5, 10-12, 55-58, 61-62, 67, 69 and 77 have been canceled, the preceding rejection of claims 5, 10-12, 55-58, 61-62, 67, 69 and 77 is moot.

The Examiner rejected claims 16, 20 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Basseches et al. 3,148,129 in view of Poisel 4,485,370, Mochizuki 4,533,935, previously applied, and Lerner 5,167,935, previously cited. Since claims 16, 20 and 23 have been canceled, the preceding rejection of claims 16, 20 and 23 is moot.

The Examiner rejected claims 49-50, 66 and 76 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly

being unpatentable over Basseches et al. 3,148,129 in view of Poisel as applied to claims 16, 20, 23 above, and further in view of Mochizuki 4,533,935, Gofuku et al. 4,785,157 and Skill level of an ordinary person in the art, previously cited. Since claims 49-50, 66 and 76 have been canceled, the preceding rejection of claims 49-50, 66 and 76 is moot.

The Examiner rejected claim 59 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gofuku et al. as applied to claims 5, 10-12, 55-58, 61-62, 67 and 69 above, and further in view of Mochizuki et al. 4,533,935 and Skill level of an ordinary person in the art, previously applied. Since claims 5, 10-12, 55-58, 61-62, 67 and 69 have been canceled, the preceding rejection of claims 5, 10-12, 55-58, 61-62, 67 and 69 is moot.

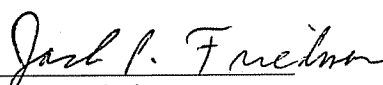
The Examiner rejected claim 60 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gofuku et al., as applied to claims 5, 10-12, 55-58, 61-62, 67 and 69 above, and further in view of Background of the invention of Gofuku et al. 4,785,157. Since claims 5, 10-12, 55-58, 61-62, 67 and 69 have been canceled, the preceding rejection of claims 5, 10-12, 55-58, 61-62, 67 and 69 is moot.

The Examiner rejected claims 51-54 and 68 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gofuku et al. as applied to claims 5, 10-12, 55-58, 61-62, 67 and 69 above, and further in view of Wang et al. 5,547,881 and Blanchard 4,707,909, previously cited. Since claims 5, 10-12, 55-58, 61-62, 67 and 69 have been canceled, the preceding rejection of claims 5, 10-12, 55-58, 61-62, 67 and 69 is moot.

CONCLUSION

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully believe that all pending claims and the entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If the Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invites the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below. The Director is hereby authorized to charge and/or credit Deposit Account No. 09-0457 (IBM).

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